

REMARKS

The Examiner's Final Office Action of November 14, 2005 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

Claims 1 and 3-18 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled previously.

Claims 1 and 3-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,070 of record – hereafter Yamazaki '070).

In the rejection, the Examiner stated that the claimed limitation regarding covering a portion of the first mask with a second mask does not exclude the second mask covering an entire area of the first mask. In response to the Examiner's explanation of why Yamazaki '070 reads on the previously amended independent claims 1, 6 and 16, Applicants have amended the claims, as shown above, to further clarify the claim language and to further distinguish the claimed invention over that of Yamazaki '070.

Particularly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6 and 16 so as to add a feature "covering a first portion of the first mask and a portion of the region to become the source region or the region to become the drain region with a second mask" and "a second portion of the first mask and the other one of the region to become the source region and the region to become the drain region are not covered with the second mask" in order to clarify the position of the second mask and more distinguish the present invention from Yamazaki '070.

The presently claimed invention recites the second mask (e.g., 113b in Fig. 1) covering a first portion of the first mask (e.g., 110b) and a portion of the region to become the source region or the region to become the drain region (e.g., 115), and a second portion of the first mask (e.g., 110c) and the other one of the region to become the source region and the region to become the drain region (e.g., 114) are not covered with the second mask (e.g., 113b) as shown in Fig. 1.

In contrast with Applicants claimed invention, Yamazaki '070 disclose that both of a portion of a region to become a source region and a portion of a region to become a drain region (114) and an entire surface of the first mask (109b) are covered with a second mask (112) as shown in FIG. 3. Therefore, Yamazaki '070 fails to disclose "covering a first portion of the first mask with a second mask" and "a second portion of the first mask is not

covered with the second mask”.

Consequently, since each and every feature of the present claims is not taught (and is not inherent) in the teachings of Yamazaki '070, as is required by MPEP Chapter 2131 in order to establish anticipation, the rejection of claims 1 and 3-18, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as anticipated by Yamazaki '070 is improper.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1, 3-18 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Luan C. Do

Registration No. 38,434

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Suite 900, 401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128
(202) 585-8000